



# Early Care and Education Consortium

*The voice of child care providers on Capitol Hill and in the States*

## About The Early Care and Education Consortium

The Early Care and Education Consortium (ECEC) is a non-profit alliance of America's leading national, regional, and independent providers of high-quality child care and early learning programs for young children. ECEC was formed in 1999 to create a provider voice to shape public policy in support of high-quality care and education for children and families. ECEC is the only national organization exclusively representing child care providers on Capitol Hill and in the states.

### Fast Facts:

- 7,600** centers
- .....
- 49** states and the District of Columbia
- .....
- 800,000** children enrolled

## Our Members

Our members include private non-profit organizations and for-profit companies who offer full-day, full-year programs for children birth through age 12, with enrollment that reflects the rich diversity of our communities and nation. Our members offer a variety of services including before- and after-school programs, extended day, and summer programs, and participate in state and federal initiatives including child care subsidy programs, state-funded prekindergarten and quality rating and improvement systems. ECEC includes other organizations actively engaged in promoting high-quality care and education.

ECEC members operate more than 7,600 centers enrolling nearly 800,000 children in 49 states and the District of Columbia. ECEC members employ tens of thousands of early educators and other professionals with experience and resources. Together, ECEC helps to create and advance good policies for children and families.

## Policy Priorities

ECEC works to promote early care and education as a whole, and targets four specific state and federal policy areas:

- PreK and Early Learning Initiatives
- Accessible Child Care Subsidies
- The Early Childhood Educator Workforce
- Quality Rating and Improvement Systems



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## Policy Priorities (continued)

Our public policy agenda supports policies and legislation that:

- Recognize the interdependence of all of the early care and education programs, emphasizing support for young children and families in their need for both care and education.
- Increase commitment to educating, recruiting, training, and supporting early care and education professionals to establish and sustain high quality.
- Reflect a broad public and private commitment to young children.
- Emphasize the development of the whole child and the importance of play and learning.
- Include the full participation of community-based child care in state-funded prekindergarten programs.
- Contribute toward a systems approach to early childhood.

## Advocacy Efforts

ECEC is engaged in the states and on the federal level in supporting strategies and advocating legislation that promotes the development and funding of high-quality early care and education. ECEC's efforts include meeting with legislators and their staff, testifying before Congress and the Administration, shaping the early learning debates in national meetings and the media, and building effective collaborations with other organizations. Directly or through advocacy grants, ECEC has convened partners, drafted legislation, bussed parents and teachers to statehouses, trained providers on how to lobby, and pressed for increased funding. ECEC emphasizes the need to address all parts of the child care and early education system.

